

REMARKS

Entry of this Second Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

The present amendment amends the specification to correct the reference disclosed at page 5, line 16 by changing "JP-A-04-50,160" to read --JP-A-04-50,161--.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The following is a marked version of the amended paragraph appearing at page 5, lines 13-25 of the specification.

Please replace the paragraph appearing at page 5, lines 13-25 with the following new paragraph.

The silicon carbide sintered body has been commercially available as a black ceramic substance. JP-A-08-310,860 discloses a black zirconia ceramic sintered body, [JP-A-04-50,160] JP-A-04-50,161 a method for the production of a high rigidity black alumina sintered body, and JP-A-06-172,034 a black silicon nitride sintered body, respectively. Though these sintered bodies are black, their thermal expansion coefficients at room temperature are  $2.3 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the sintered body of silicon carbide,  $7 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$  in that of zirconia,  $5.3 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$  in that of alumina, and  $1.3 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$  in that of silicon nitride. Thus, these sintered bodies are incapable of realizing a low thermal expansion coefficient aimed at this invention.

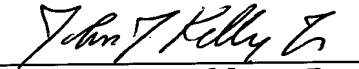
CONCLUSION

An action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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